



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 6, 2006

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN 

FOURTH OF JULY 2006 ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes actions that were taken by this Department to mitigate the anticipated additional emergency activity during the Fourth of July 2006 holiday. Also included is a summary of fireworks-related emergency responses, property losses, and the number of injuries.

OPERATIONS – EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The Department received 2,011 telephone calls and dispatched 1,101 incidents. The following information indicates the fireworks-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 7 a.m. on July 4, to 7 a.m. on July 5, 2006.

For comparison, the 2005 statistics have also been included:

Number Of Incidents	2005	2006
Structures	9	1
Miscellaneous	10	11
Grass/Brush Fires	25	14
Total	44	26

Dollar/Acreage Loss/Injuries	2005	2006
Structures/Contents	\$50,500	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Property	\$2,520	\$15,200
Grass/Brush	38.21 Acres	4.34 Acres
Injuries	5	0
Total	\$53,020	\$16,200

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER

BRADBURY
CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA

CUDAHY
DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLEN DORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS

HAWTHORNE
HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRWINDALE
LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

AUGMENTED STAFFING

The following resources and augmented staffing were provided by this Department on July 4, 2006:

- The Information Management Division (IMD) provided Command and Control with on-site CAD support staff from July 3 through the early morning of July 5 and provided incident/call volume reports for our Public Information Office (PIO).
- IMD provided technical support staff on call for emergency PC/communications repairs for the entire holiday weekend.
- Incident Management Team 2 was on-duty during the holiday weekend.
- Staffed water tenders for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed all unstaffed patrols for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 87 at Fire Station 87 for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 129 and Water Tender 129 at Fire Station 129 for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed two (2) Type 1 Engine Strike Teams for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 7 at Heavy Equipment Unit for 12 hours (1000 to 2200 hours).
- Staffed an additional fireship at Barton Heliport for 12 hours (0900 to 2100 hours).
- Staffed four dozers at Fire Stations 64, 124, and 129 (1000 to 2200 hours), and the Heavy Equipment Unit (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed 20 ground crews and 6 superintendents.

LIFEGUARD DIVISION

- Assigned one additional paramedic to the Isthmus and Avalon on July 2, 3, and 4.
- For permitted firework display program coverage, all sections provided extended staffing hours on boats and beach patrol.
- Southern and Northern Section Headquarters staffed with a captain after-hours on July 4.
- Staffed Dive 1 (1000 to 2000 hours) on July 4.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Special emphasis was placed once again on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2006:

- Conducted the 15th Annual “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” with the theme of “*Attend a Professional Fireworks Display.*” All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 1,000 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 29, 2006 to announce the winners of the “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” and to award prizes. Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and Grossman Burn Center, were on hand to discuss the dangers of legal and illegal dangerous fireworks and the public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show. Representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and the Los Angeles Police Department also attended and spoke about the dangers of discharging firearms into the air during the Fourth of July holiday.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations on the potential dangers of fireworks.
- The Professional Fireworks Show Hotline, 888-654-FIRE, was placed in operation to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows and a list of cities permitting the sale of safe and sane fireworks.
- Public Affairs posted public safety information regarding the Fourth of July on the website www.lacofd.org. The website included a list for the public of all the professional fireworks shows in Los Angeles County. Other information included was a list of which cities in Los Angeles County allowed *Safe and Sane* fireworks and general Fourth of July safety tips. This information was also posted at www.safejuly4th.org, a website sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Children’s Burn Foundation.
- Supported the “WE TIP” telephone hotline to identify and locate the illegal use of fireworks.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Approved the permits and supervised 43 public fireworks displays with a Fire Safety Officer at each site (July 1-4).
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies (July 4).
- Provided one Battalion Chief and one Fire Inspector for fireworks-related problems (July 3 and 4). Confiscated about 12,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from throughout the County of Los Angeles.

CONCLUSION

The number of fireworks-related incidents decreased by 18. The dollar loss was down from \$53,020 in 2005 to \$16,200 in 2006. There were no injuries reported this year. The Department will be forwarding to your Honorable Board a more comprehensive report during the month of August that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2006. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

PMF:cm

c: David E. Janssen
Vicky Santana
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Rick Velasquez
Sussy Nemer

